

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a viewing audience.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. And as this month comes to a close, I want to draw attention to H.R. 1897, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act.

With over 5 million Americans suffering from this degenerative disease of the brain, Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, and it's important that we find a cure, and work to find a cure, to ease the suffering of those who are affected as well as their families.

Mr. Speaker, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act would encourage the development of public-private partnerships with universities, pharmaceutical companies, biotech firms, and help them pursue the development of Alzheimer's treatments.

As a cosponsor of this legislation, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act, I do ask my colleagues, whether you have a loved one affected by this disease or not, to sign on as a cosponsor of this legislation so we can find a cure to this terrible disease.

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

(Mr. WOODALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOODALL. We have just gotten back from Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday. We're grateful for all of the blessings that we have, blessings that come from God the Father and blessings that come from having won the birth lottery and being born an American.

As I watch the challenges that are going on around the globe, Mr. Speaker—I look at the challenges in Europe, I look at the challenges in Africa, I look at the challenges in Asia—we need to be proud of American exceptionalism. We need to focus on those things that exist here and here alone. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks with the challenges that we are going to face, let us not look to nations around the world and see how they are doing it. Let's look to those values and principles that have made this country great for over 200 years, and let's double down on those.

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JOBS FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be back, and I hope all of my colleagues had as enjoyable a Thanksgiving as I did with my family and with our constituents back in our districts.

We have much to be thankful for. After all, this is America, and this has always been the place of dreams. This is America. It's always been the place where people have found opportunity; where, whatever they wanted to do, they could achieve it; and it's still that America today.

But it's up to us, in the third year of this recession, to restore the American Dream, and there are ways that we can do it. And tonight, together with my colleagues who will soon be joining me, we will talk about various ways in which the Democrats in this House will and have made numerous proposals to restore the American Dream.

I was out in the district for five of the days that we were gone, talking to people. In fact, one fellow who has a book binding company—a man who's 85 years old and is about to retire and turn that company over to his employees—was talking about the enormous strength of this Nation, and he was sharing the story of himself and his employees and the way in which they came here. And many struggled from very bad situations in other countries, but they came here with optimism. They came here with a true belief that in America you can make it, that if you follow the rules, if you work hard, you can make it. You can have a good life. You can take care of your family.

Unfortunately, for all too many Americans, that's not the case today. So restoring the American Dream is our task, and we can do it.

The President, more than 2 months ago, proposed the American Jobs Act, a proposal that would put 2 to 3 million Americans back to work immediately. And tonight, on the other side of this Nation's Capitol, the U.S. Senate is debating a portion of that American Jobs Act, a portion of it that is a very, very significant tax cut for men and women that are working. Their Social Security payments would be reduced by 50 percent. No longer would they pay 6.2 percent of their wages into the Social Security fund. They would pay 3.1 percent—and for their employers, the same reduction—providing a very powerful incentive for individuals to have money in their pockets, about \$1,500 a year, money in their pockets so that they could participate in buying gifts for their children. As we look to Christmas, we know there are many, many Americans that are not going to be able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for us in this House to follow the lead of the President and to give every American worker, 98 percent of Americans, a very significant tax reduction, \$1,500, by reducing that Social Security tax. And for

their employers, the same. If their employers are up to \$50 million of payroll, they can reduce, by 50 percent, their Social Security tax so that that employer has more money to hire people. That debate is going on in the U.S. Senate today. Unfortunately, here in this House, we've not been able to even take up that issue. We should, because it's part of what we must do to put Americans back to work, to give them a break.

Joining me in this discussion tonight as we talk about restoring the American Dream and about the things that we can do to make that happen is my colleague from the great State of New York (Mr. TONKO). We have often been here. We call ourselves the East-West Team.

It is good to see you back. I hope you had as good a Thanksgiving as I did, and I'm sure you worked as hard in your district as I did during those days. Please share with us, and welcome back.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, and thank you for leading us in an hour of discussion, of dialogue, that is most critical to the economic viability, to the economic comeback of America's middle class.

You talk about some of these incentives that would be addressed through a payroll tax deduction. It's all about empowering our middle class, enhancing their purchasing power, enabling us to enhance that demand out there for products that then obviously translates into job growth; because with more demand upon manufacturers in this country, with more consumer confidence, with absolute increase in purchasing power, there will be a positive outcome.

There's no denying that unemployment is driving the deficit; and if we can turn that around, if we can invest in ways that enhance the middle class, that's good for all strata, all income strata in this Nation. And what's been lost in the logic here for the majority is that the empowerment of the middle class stands to produce gains for everybody, and we saw what happened in the buildup before our entry here into the House.

In the period of the recession, it was all about borrowing, totally, the money that was necessary to spend on a tax cut for millionaires and billionaires. And some would suggest those are the job creators. But what happened was we realized 8.2 million jobs lost, and so that didn't work.

We ought not go back and revisit that formula, because it was not a formula for success. What we need here is to bring about the long overdue empowerment of the middle class. And it is working families across this country that need that assistance today; and, by the way, it works in everybody's favor.

So that's what we're promoting, and it's good to start off with that discussion; because as we move forward, investments are what it's about: investing our way to prosperity, investing